

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and amended claim 6 to be in independent form including limitations of claim 1. Applicant has also amended claims 2-5 and 7-10. After this amendment, claims 2-10 are pending with claim 6 being the sole independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 7-9 based on suggestions made in the Office Action. Applicant has also amended a number of other claims for clarity.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-9 were objected to because of certain informalities.

Applicant has amended the claims to insert "A" or "The" before each of the claims as suggested in the Office Action. Also, Applicant has amended the claims to remove the phrase "characterized in that".

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim objections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 10 in view of U.S. 6,143,207

Claims 1-5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,143,207 (Yamada).

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and has amended claims 2-5 and 10 so that each of these claims depends ultimately from independent claim 6 which does not stand rejection on this ground.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 10 in view of U.S. 5,500,394

Claims 1-5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,500,394 (Kondakov).

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and has amended claims 2-5 and 10 so that each of these claims depends ultimately from independent claim 6 which does not stand rejection on this ground.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 10

Claims 1-3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,750,450 (Bull), U.S. Patent No. 4,735,923 (Sugawara) and GB 2170516, each taken alone.

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and has amended claims 2-3 and 10 so that each of these claims depends ultimately from independent claim 6 which does not stand rejection on this ground.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections on this ground.

Double Patenting

Claims 6-8 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,937.

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer that refers to U.S. Patent No. 6,761,937.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection on this ground.

Application No. 10/732833
Amendment dated August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2005

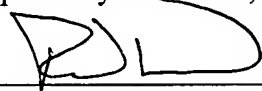
Docket No.: C1168.70000US00

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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